Implementation of land reforms

1412. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report which appeared in the Statesman of February 2, 1990 under the caption "Facts betray Figures" regarding land reforms;

(b) if so, what progress has so far been made in each State and Union Territories relating to land reforms implementation, especially regarding the extent of surplus land identified, declared surplus and that distributed amongst the landless farmers; and

(c) to what extent the above facts differ from the official figures as reported in the press?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) No such news report has appeared in Statesman dated 2nd February, 1990. However, such a report appeared in Financial Express dated 2nd February, 1990.

(b) As only the progress of distribution of ceiling land is monitored by the Central Government, a statement of area declared surplus and distributed is attached. (See Appendix CEIII, Annexure No. 62)

(c) The estimates made in various National Surveys about likely availability of surplus ceiling land widely vary i.e. from 4.80 million hectares (as per National Sample Survey 26th round, 1971-72) to 12,10 million hectares (as per Agriculture Cencus, 1970-71) as against 7.25 million acres declared surplus (upto September, 1989).

Increase in the prices of edible oils and vanaspati

1413. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of various edible oils and vanaspati increased during December, 1989, January and February, 1990;

(b) if so, the extent of increase registered in respect of average wholesale and retail prices of each oil and vanaspati; and

(c) the steps taken to keep the prices under control?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) The increase has taken place in January and February, 1990.

(b) The percentage increase/decrease (—) from the previous month of the average wholesale/retail prices of major traditional oils and vanaspati are as under:—

Wholesale prices

	Dec. 89	Jan. 90	Feb. 90
Groundnut Oil	(—)7.0 to (—)0.5	5.0 to 9.0	4.0 to 9.0
Mustard Oil	(—)3.0 to (—)6.0	3.0 to 4.0	(—)0.2 to 1.5
Sesame Oil	Nil to 1.0	19.0 to 20.0	22.0 to 23.0
Vanaspati	(—)9.0 to (—)2.0	(—)1.0 to 1.0	4.6 to 6.0

Retail Prices (23-2-90)

Groundnut Oil	(—)10.0 to (—)3.0	3.0 to 6.0	2.0 to 6.0
Mustard Oil	(—)2.0 to (—)1.0	Nil to 4.0	Nil to 1.0
Sesame Oil	(—)4.0 to 1.0	Nil to 5.0	2.0 to 5.0
Vanaspati	(—)8.0 to (—)4.0	(—)3.0 to Nil	Nil to 6.0

(c) The steps taken by the Government to keep the prices under control are as under:—

(i) Monitoring of prices in respect of edible oils/vanaspati.

(ii) All State Governments/UTs have been advised to have strict surveillance on the availability and prices of edible oils and vanaspati.

(iii) Effective supply management of imported oils through PDS.

(iv) State Governments/U.T. Administrations have been advised to procure 30 per cent of vanaspati produced within their jurisdiction for supply through State Government nominees or through Public Dictribution System (PDS).

Production of oilseeds

1414. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the estimated production of oilseeds during the years 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90;

(b) what steps were taken to promote production of oil and oilseeds during the years; and

(c) what is the target of production for 1990-91 and the 8th Five Year Plan period?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) The estimated production of oilseeds during 1987-88 and 1988-89 was 126.5 and 178.9 lakh tonnes respectively.

The final estimates of production of oilseeds for 1989-90 have not yet become due from the States. However, according to the present assessment, the production of oilseeds this year is expected to be around 169 lakh tonnes.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to increase the production of oilseeds during these years are as follows:

1. Implementation of the National Oilseeds Development Project, besides, an Oilseeds Production and Thrust Programme (OPTP) has been introduced with 100 per cent assistance to States for rendering help to oilseeds farmers regarding seed, plant protection and extension of technology.

2. Oilseeds Project of the National Dairy Development Board.

3. Better incentives to producers through fixation of minimum support prices.

4. Intensification of research efforts for increasing the productivity of oilseeds.

5. Increase in area under non-traditional oilseed crops like soyabean and sunflower and exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, rice bran, etc.